

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

COME-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 IGA-02 SWF-02 IO-14 L-03 H-03 DRC-01

ARA-16 AF-10 EUR-25 /224 W
----- 029721

R 101200Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2298

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, TH, (BUTZ)

SUBJ: SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

BUTZ' VISIT TO THAILAND

1. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EARL BUTZ, VISITED THAILAND ON APRIL 4 TH AND 5TH. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE, DAVID L. HUME, AND A PARTY OF EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AS WELL AS MRS. BUTZ. AFTER MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR KINTNER AT THE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THAILAND, SECRETARY BUTZ AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY WERE BRIEFED BY THE COUNTRY TEAM.

2. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING AT THE EMBASSY, SECRETARY BUTZ AND PARTY WERE THE QUESTS OF THE ROYAL THAI
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GOVERNMENT'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF A THREE

HOUR BOAT RIDE AND WORKING LUNCH WITH ALMOST ALL OF THE EXECUTIVE SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. DURING THIS THREE HOUR BOAT RIDE AND LUNCH, SECRETARY BUTZ AND MINISTER CHAKRABANDH HAD A CHANCE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN THAILAND. MINISTER CHAKRABANDH EXPRESSED THAILAND'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES AS A SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR COTTON AND TOBACCO. CHAKRABANDH EXPLAINED AS WELL THE AGRICULTURE PROBLEMS FACING THAILAND AS IT STRIVES FOR AN INTEGRATED STRATEGY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. ON THE EVENING OF THE 4TH, SECRETARY BUTZ AND PARTY WERE AGAIN THE GUESTS OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, THIS TIME FOR DINNER AT THE PHIMAN THAI RESTAURANT. IN ADDITION TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, SECRETARY BUTZ AND PARTY WERE TREATED TO PERFORMANCES OF THAI CLASSICAL DANCES.

4. ON FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 5TH, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, BUTZ, MET WITH AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE SUBCONTINENT. DURING THIS SESSION, THE SECRETARY RECEIVED BRIEFING FROM THE ATTACHES ON THE PROBLEMS FACING INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION IN THIS PART OF ASIA. THE SECRETARY ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO UP-DATE HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO THE ATTACHES ATTENDING THE MEETING. ON FRIDAY EVENING, THE 5TH OF APRIL, SECRETARY BUTZ AND HIS PARTY WERE THE GUESTS OF AMBASSADOR KINTNER FOR A DINNER AT THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE.

5. DURING SECRETARY BUTZ'S DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR KINTNER, THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE MATTER OF THE UMR FOR THE PL-480 TOBACCO PROGRAM IN THAILAND. AMBASSADOR KINTNER REQUESTED SECRETARY BUTZ'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING AN EXCEPTION FOR THE THAIS FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE APPROXIMATELY 4,500 ADDITIONAL TONS OF NON PL-480 TOBACCO DURING 1973. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE PL-480 TOBACCO PROGRAM WAS ABOUT TO COME TO AN END AND NOTED AS WELL THAT THE U.S. WAS THE ONLY SUPPLIER OF TOBACCO TO THAILAND; AND THAT, AS A RESULT, REQUIREMENTS TO FULFILL THE UMR SIMPLY FOUND THE U.S. COMPETING AGAINST ITSELF. SECRETARY UNCLASSIFIED

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BUTZ TOOK THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST UNDER ADVISEMENT AND PROMISED TO DISCUSS THE PL-480 TOBACCO PROGRAM WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S STAFF AND THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON.

6. AMBASSADOR CHARLES WHITEHOUSE, AMERICAN EMBASSY VIENTIANE, ALSO MET WITH SECRETARY BUTZ AND ADMINISTRATOR HUME DURING THE SECRETARY'S STAY IN BANGKOK.

7. MR. ALLEN GRANT, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU, MADE A SHORT FIELD TRIP TO THE CHOKCHAI CATTLE RANCH IN KORAT PROVINCE, NORTHEASTERN THAILAND. MR. GRANT TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CHOKCHAI RANCH AND THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED AT THE POTENTIAL FOR DAIRY AND MEAT CATTLE IN NORTHEAST THAILAND.
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8. UPON THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE, THE FOLLOWING DEPARTURE STATEMENT WAS ISSUED IN THE SECRETARY'S NAME BY THE EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE:

DEPARTURE STATEMENT
OF
U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EARL BUTZ

1. THAILAND IS THE FIRST NATION I AM VISITING IN A THREE WEEK TOUR OF EAST ASIA. I HAVE HAD AN EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH PRINCE CHAKRABANDH, THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND HIS STAFF. THE WARM HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO ME AND MY PARTY DURING OUR VISIT TO THAILAND IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

2. THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT TO EAST ASIA IS TO STUDY
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TRENDS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. TO THAI END I HAVE MET IN BANGKOK WITH THE U.S. AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES IN OTHER EMBASSIES THROUGHOUT THIS REGION. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THAILAND, ALL OF THE AREAS I AM VISITING ARE IMPORTERS OF FOOD. CONSEQUENTLY, AS TWO OF THE FOOD SUPPLIERS FOR THE REGION IT IS IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS FOR THE FOOD IMPORTING NATIONS, THAT ORDERLY MARKETING AND TRADE ARE CARRIED OUT IN THE WORLD. WE BOTH HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY AS DEPENDABLE SUPPLIERS OF FOOD.

3. IN THE LONGER TERM, ORDERLY MARKET MANAGEMENT ALSO INVOLVES AN INCREASE IN THE OVERALL SUPPLY OF FOOD AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT. IN THAILAND, AS ELSEWHERE, ANY MAJOR INCREASE IN PRODUCTION IN THE SHORT TERM IS RELATED DIRECTLY TO AN INCREASED SUPPLY OF FERTILIZERS. WHILE MY GOVERNMENT REMAINS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR MORE FERTILIZER IN THE LONG RUN, THERE ARE NO EASY SOLUTIONS IN THE SHORT RUN TO ACUTE WORLDWIDE SHORTAGE OF FERTILIZER. THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO AT THE ECAFE MEETING IN COLOMBO. AT THAT TIME THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES DECLARED THAT MY GOVERNMENT "WILL DO EVERYTHIN IN ITS POWER AND IN COLLABORATION WITH ALL OTHER COUNTRIES TO FIND THE BEST AND SPEEDIEST SOLUTION TO THIS PRESSING ISSUE." I MIGHT ALSO ADD, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT AMBASSADOR KINTNER IN BANGKOK HAS AGGRESSIVELY BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION, AS WELL AS TO OTHER AGENCIES OF MY GOVERNMENT, THE PARTICULAR CONCERN OF THAILAND AS A MAJOR RICE PRODUCER IN OBTAINING MORE FERTILIZER.

4. WITH REGARD TO OUR BILATERAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG BEEN AN IMPORTANT AND RELIABLE SUPPLIER TO THAILAND, PARTICULARLY FOR COTTON. THE TRADE POLICIES, AS WELL AS THE PROSPECT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION, PROVIDE FURTHER ASSURANCES THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO PLAY THIS ROLE IN THE FUTURE AS WELL.

5. FINALLY, WHILE I HAVE VISITED THAILAND TO DISCUSS
AGRICULTURAL MATTERS, I HAVE AT THE SAME TIME BEEN IMPRESSED
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BY WITNESSING FIRST HAND THAILAND'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A
REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THAILAND SUCCESS
IN THIS DIFFICULT BUT REWARDING ENDEAVOR.

6. THE VISIT OF SECRETARY BUTZ TO THAILAND WAS A SUCCESS
FROM EVERY POINT OF VIEW.
KINTNER

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